

SENATOR WITHEM: Lottery money will not revolutionize education. What it will do is it will fund those worthy projects for education improvement at the local level. I see Senator Rasmussen has her light on and I hope she gives the same sort of remarks that she did earlier on her bill that came before the Education Committee where we were talking about using Highway Trust money to fund those types of very worthy, very needed education improvement, cutting-edge types of changes. We need some money for education earmarked in the bill. The original bill said all to education. I am willing to say, no, education should not be the only one at the trough. There ought to be other worthy projects. I agree with Senator Hall that we ought to allow other worthy one-time only projects to come before us. To put it in the General Fund, though, where it just gets totally lost, starts up some programs that may then have to be picked up by other tax sources later on is not a good idea and I'd urge you to support the Hall amendment and then...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...advance the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I don't think I will use the exact same language that I used on LB 699 because we didn't get it anywhere, but I will use some of the same language. I rise in support of the Hall amendment. I think that it offers a reasonable compromise here to providing some definition of what the lottery money is going to be used for, and what I heard during my campaign was that the people do want some definition about what that lottery money is going to be used for, that they don't want it just dumped back into the General Funds, and they don't want it to be used in any way for programs that the state ought to be doing. It ought to be extra kinds of things, and I think that this amendment offers us an opportunity to earmark and define how the money will be used, and yet allows some flexibility, and when we get down to the specifics of it, there is no doubt that there are many pressing and justifiable needs that should be considered for funding through lottery money. And I think that by saying that 50 percent of the money can be used for those kinds of projects is very good. It is reasonable that 50 percent, at least 50 percent of the lottery money goes for educational kinds of activities. I heard time and time again that the one thing that